MOUNTAIN LION

1998 HUNTING REGULATIONS
STATE OF MONTANA

Licenses

- A hunter may purchase only one mountain lion license per year.
- Mountain lion licenses are available only at Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Headquarters.
- Applications must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service no later than August 31.
- A hunter may legally take one adult mountain lion per season.
- Hunter orange is required for mountain lion hunters.

General Regulations

- As a big game animal, mountain lions may only be taken by hunting (rifle, pistol or archery).
- When the total quota is reached in a hunting district or hunting district group, the mountain lion season for that area will close upon 24-hours notice to the harvest of mountain lions, but no later than April 14.
- When the subquota is reached in a hunting district or hunting district group, the mountain lion subquota for that area will close upon 24 hours notice to the harvest of mountain lions, but no later than April 14.
- The mountain lion license and tag must be attached to the animal immediately upon kill.
- Evidence of sex must remain naturally intact on the hide.
- Evidence of sex must be verified by department personnel before a trophy license is issued. It will also be mandatory that skulls be turned in and tagged at the time a trophy license is issued.
- A hunter harvesting a mountain lion must, if required by FWP, physically return to the kill site for inspection.
- All Wildlife Management Areas are closed to lion hunting in the winter season.
- All National Wildlife Refuges are closed to lion hunting.
- Current harvest information may be obtained by calling the FWP Headquarters in the administrative region where the district is located during normal business hours or statewide information at 1-800-385-7826 **24 hours every day.** The toll free line is updated by 1 PM (MST) every day.

Use of dogs:

- Dogs may be used to chase or hunt mountain lions in the winter season. Lion hunting and chasing is open one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for the dates listed by hunting district.
- It is prohibited for a dog owner or lion hunter to release dogs on a lion track, or allow dogs to chase a lion, or hold a lion at bay during any period of the day or year when the season is not open to hunting or chasing lions. Legitimate attempts to retrieve loose dogs after legal hunting hours does not constitute a violation of this rule.
- Persons handling dogs in the field are required to have purchased a mountain lion license and hound handler permit to hunt OR chase mountain lion during the hunting season.
- Hound handler permits must be obtained no later than August 31. EXCEPTION: Outfitters and guides will be eligible to receive a free hound handler permit by presenting their Montana outfitters or guide license and their conservation license. Guides will also be required to provide the license number of the outfitter on whose license they are guiding. This permit is valid only while accompanied by a paying client.
- A hunter that has purchased a valid mountain lion license and has a free hound handler permit may legally chase mountain lion during the hunting season any time after a kill is made or when the quota is reached in a district or until April 14.

Fall Hunting Season

Only in the 100 series districts. Mountain lion may be taken during the fall season (Oct. 25 - Nov. 29 except Hds 150 & 151). The season will close on Nov. 29 or upon reaching 20% of the quota established for the winter season (as shown below). **Use Of Dogs Is Prohibited During This Season. Reporting Requirements Are The Same**. During this season female lions with kittens should not be taken. If a lactating female is killed, the hunter is to inform an official of FWP as soon after the kill as possible so that an attempt can be made to backtrack the lion and locate the kittens. No juveniles (with body spots) shall be killed. The fall season harvest will be deducted from the winter season quota.

Winter Season (Dec. 1 - April 14)

Females with kittens may not be taken. If a lactating female is killed, she shall be backtracked and the kittens captured and turned over to FWP within 24 hours (kittens are young of the year). No juveniles (with body spots) shall be killed.

100 SERIES DISTRICTS

Districts (or groups)	Hunting Season	FINAL Lion Harvest Quotas		
		Total	Female	Male
100	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	26	any legal lion	
101	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	22	any legal lion	
102	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	14	any legal lion	
103	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	16	any legal lion	
104	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	13	any legal lion	
110	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	14	any legal lion	
120	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	7	any legal lion	
121	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	31	any legal lion	
122	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	25	any legal lion	
123	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	9	any legal lion	
124	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	5	any legal lion	
130	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	14	any legal lion	
132 & 170	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	13	any legal lion	
140	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	9	any legal lion	
141	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	5	any legal lion	
150 & 151	Sept.15 - April 14, 1999	6	any legal lion	

200 SERIES DISTRICTS

*Except Missoula Special Management Area.				
200 & 201*	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	25	15	10
202 & 203*	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	30	17	13
204*, 260 *& 261	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	30	20	10
Missoula Special Management Area Portions of 201, 203, 204, 260, 283 & 292	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	25	15	10
(Legal description and map of this area available from Missoula FWP Headquarters, 406-542-5500).				
210, 211, & 216	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	14	8	6
212 & 215	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	8	4	4
213 & 214	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	4	2	2
240	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	40	25	15
250	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	30	20	10
270	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	25	15	10

Districts (or groups)	Hunting Season	FINAL Lion Harvest Quotas		
		Total	Female	Male
280	Sept. 15 - April 14, 1999	24	10	14
281, 284 & 293	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999			
282	CLOSED			
283* & 285	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	25	15	10
290, 291, & 292*	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	25	12	13
300 SERIES DISTRICTS				
300, 302, 328, & 329	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	3	2	
301	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	6	2	
310, 311, 360, 361 & 362	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	12	4	
312, & 393	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	10	4	
313 & 316	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	3	1	
Deckard Flats - Eagle Creek portion of hunting district 313 as posted, subject to closure to all hunting on 24 hours notice.				
314	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	6	2	
315	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	5	3	
317	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	6	2	
318 & 350	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	6	3	3
319, 340 & 341	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	4	3	
320 & 333	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	5	3	
322, 326 & 330	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	6	3	
323, 324, 325 & 327	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	6	3	
321, 331 & 332	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	5	4	
335, 339, & 343	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	10	6	4
370 & 380	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	10	5	5
390, 391, & 392	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	20	10	10
400 SERIES DISTRICTS				
400, 401, 403, 406, 415, & 441	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	5	3	2
404, 421, 444, & 450	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	11	7	4
405, 447, & 471	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	4	2	2
410, 417, 419 & 426	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	9	6	3
411 & 412	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	13	8	5
413	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	10	6	4
416 & 446	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	18	9	9
418, 420, 432, 448 449, 452, & 454	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	16	9	7
422, 423, 424, 425 & 442	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	29	19	10
445 & 455	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	18	12	6
500 SERIES DISTRICTS				
500 & 570	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	3		
502 & 575	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	4		
510	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	4	2	
511	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	4	2	
520	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	8	4	
530 & 590	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	5		
540	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	8	4	
560	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	14	7	
580	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	8	4	

Districts (or groups)	Hunting Season	FINAL Lion Harvest Quotas		
		Total	Female	Male
600 SERIES DISTRICTS				
Portion of 680 west of Cow Creek and 690	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	10	5	
Portion of 680 east of Cow Creek, 600, 610 620, 621, 622, 623, 630, 631, 632, 640, 641, 650, 651, 652 & 670	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	3	1	
700 SERIES DISTRICTS				
	Dec. 1 - April 14, 1999	7	any legal lion	

Mountain Lion - Trophy

A hunter harvesting a mountain lion must:

- Personally report their lion kill within 24 hours by calling the FWP Regional Office during office hours (8 am - 5 pm weekdays) in the administrative region where the kill was made. Reports can be made after office hours on weekends by calling the Mountain Lion Reporting Number (406-449-1065). Hunters must then personally present the hide and skull within ten (10) days to an officer of FWP residing in the administrative region in which the license was filled, for the purpose of inspection, tagging, recording of kill, and issuance of a trophy license. Hunters unable to comply with the tagging and trophying requirements due to special or unique circumstances, must contact the administrative region in which the lion was killed and receive authority for tagging and trophying outside the region in which the animal was taken.
- The hide tag must thereafter remain attached to the hide until tanned.
- The skull tag must remain attached to the skull for at least one year.
- The lion skull will be retained by FWP for processing and examination and then returned to the owner.
- It is unlawful for anyone to possess, ship, transport, sell or purchase any mountain lion, or part thereof, unless they have been tagged as prescribed.

Export Mountain Lions

A CITES permit is required in order to export mountain lion hides or parts out of the United States. Information on these permits and how to acquire them may be obtained from: Office of Management Authority, USFWS, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 432, Arlington, VA 22203 (1-800-358-2104) or local USFWS office or agent.

These mountain lion regulations must be used with the Deer, Elk & Lion maps in the 1998 Deer and Elk Regulations and Legal Descriptions.

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the FWP Commission in section 87-1-301, MCA, and are valid March 1, 1998 through February 28, 1999. These regulations were adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on February 5-6, 1998. Quotas were adopted final on May 29, 1998. Patrick J. Graham, Secretary.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks